SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 3 MAY 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans as well as in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins may be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR THE 2020 SARL AGM

AWA VALVE QSO PARTY SSB LEG THIS AFTERNOON

and

Two solar cycles active at once

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR THE 2020 SARL AGM

The electronic voting for the four Financial motions opened at 00:01 CAT on Monday 27 April 2020 and there was an initial rush to cast votes, but this has decreased during the week. The four motions deal with the approval of the un-audited interim accounts of income and expenditure and balance sheet as at 31st December; the approval of the proposed budget for the 2020/21; the approval of the proposed subscriptions for 2020/21 so that the invoices can be sent out and the approval of the proposed auditor for 2020/21.

The SARL Electronic Voting will close at 23:59 CAT on Wednesday 6 May and you can cast your vote at http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/ElectronicVoting/ or

make use of the link on the front page of the League web site. Cast your vote now!

THE MAY 2020 RADCOM

As another part of the RSGB "Get on the air to care" campaign, the May edition of RadCom is being made available to radio amateurs around the world to read online as a sample edition. A number of IARU national societies have taken a similar step and the RSGB is happy to join those societies in supporting the worldwide amateur radio community during these difficult times. Visit www.rsgb.org/sampleradcom

AWA VALVE SSB QSO PARTY THIS AFTERNOON

The SSB leg of the Antique Wireless Association Valve QSO party will be held this afternoon from 13:00 to 17:00 UTC with activity on 40 and 80 metres. The scoring depends on the type of radio being used. The closing date for your logs is Monday 18 May 2020 and must be sent to andyzs6ady@vodamail.co.za. The rules are on page 21 of the Blue Book.

THE SARL VHF/UHF DIGITAL CONTEST ON 9 AND 10 MAY

The first leg of the VHF/UHF Digital Contest takes place from 10:00 UTC on Saturday 9 May 2020 to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 10 May 2020 with activity on 6, 4 and 2 metres, 70 and 23 centimetres and higher. You can participate as a Single Operator or a Limited 4 Hour station. The Lock Down regulations do not all for Multi operator or Portable/Field Stations. The exchange is an RSQ report and your full six-digit maidenhead grid locator. Get the rules on page 50 of the Blue Book.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

TWO SOLAR CYCLE ACTIVE AT ONCE

On Monday 27 April there were two sunspots in the sun's southern hemisphere. Their magnetic polarity revealed something interesting: they come from different solar cycles. The magnetic map of the sun's surface shows one sunspot (AR2760) which belongs to old solar Cycle 24, while the other (AR2761) belongs to new solar Cycle 25. Dr Tony Phillips of Spaceweather.com said we know this because of Hale's polarity law. AR2760 and AR2761 have reversed polarity that marks them as belonging to different cycles.

This is normal. Solar cycles always overlap at their boundaries, sprinkling solar minimum with a mixture of old and new cycle sunspots. Sometimes, they pop up simultaneously. We might see more such combinations in the months ahead. The simultaneous appearance of two solar cycles suggests a type of temporary balance. In fact, the tipping point may have already been reached. So far this year, there have been 7 numbered sunspots. Five of them, 71%, have come from solar cycle 25. This compares to only 17% in 2019 and 0% in 2018.

Short-lived sunspots belonging to solar cycle 25 have already been reported on 20 December 2016; 8 April 2018; 17 November 2018; 28 May 2019; 1 July 2019 and 8 July 2019. The one on 8 July 2019, was significant because it lasted long enough to receive a number: AR2744. Record-keepers will likely mark it as the first official sunspot of solar cycle 25. If so, AR2750 would be the second.

The increasing frequency of new cycle sunspots does not mean that the solar minimum is finished. On the contrary, low solar activity will probably continue for at least another year as solar Cycle 24 decays and solar Cycle 25 slowly sputters to life. If forecasters are correct, solar cycle 25 sunspots will eventually dominate the solar disk, bringing a new solar maximum as early as 2023.

Join Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV on Amateur Radio Today as he discusses the appearance of two sunspots of opposite polarity with Ean Retief, ZS1PR. Amateur Radio Today starts at 10:00 CAT this morning on 7 082 kHz, or a repeater near you. In Cape Town Andre Fransman, ZS1F rebroadcasts the program at 19:00 on Sunday evenings on 145.750 MHz. Nationally Andy Cairns ZS6ADY rebroadcasts the programme on Mondays at 19:30 on 3650 kHz.

CONTEST RESULTS

The SARL Hamnet Simulated Emergency Contest this year was held on 1 March, at the same time the SARL Hamnet Regional Directors met at the NARC for the first face-to-face meeting in quite some time. Teams entered from ZS1, ZS2, ZS4, and ZS6 while contacts in the logs indicate QSOs from all over the country. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown most entries were category D (Single operator Base station)

Category A: Single Operator stationary mobile
1st Nico Oelofse, ZS4N – 1 152 points
2nd Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT – 252 points

Category B: Single Operator portable
1st Al Akkers, ZS2U – 260 points

Category C: Multi-operator portable
1st SARL Hamnet Western Cape, ZS1DCC – 432 points
2nd the SARL, ZS6DCC – 310 punts

Category D: Single operator base station
1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN – 1 548 points
2nd the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society - ZS2PE – 948 points
3rd Denise van Vuuren, ZS1DS – 756 points

The first leg of the VHF/UHF Analogue contest was held over the weekend of 14 and 15 March 2020. Nine logs were received, it was determined that 69 stations participated - 30 from ZS1, 2 from ZS3, 6 from ZS4 and 31 from ZS6. Total grids worked = 12.

Base Stations, Single operator
1st Carl Minne, ZS6CBQ - 207 000 points
2nd Koos Greyvenstein, ZS6KSG - 55 945 points

3rd Michael Folkey, ZR4MF - 42 359 points

Field stations, Multi operator
1st the Cape Radio Group, ZS1CRG – 20 770 points

Limited 4 Hours
1st Nickus de Vos, ZS6J – 27 267 points
2nd Cliff Jones, ZS6BJU - 5135 points

FM only
1st Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS – 13 445 points

Six logs were received for the Autumn QRP contest held on 18 April. Thanks to all who submitted their logs.

1st the West Rand Amateur Radio Club, ZS6WR - 144 points
2nd Dienie Schnetler, ZS6DNI - 117 points
3rd Danie Schnetler, ZS6DPS - 99 points

The Sasolburg ARC, ZS4SRK celebrates 70 years of amateur radio history this year. The ZS4 Sprint is one of the few events planned in 2020 that we may follow through with to commemorate the club's history. The results of the ZS4 Sprint have been published. A record entry of 27 logs were received. The Sasolburg would like to thank everyone who took the time to participate and send in their log sheets. All 27 participating stations whose logs were received, will receive their certificates in electronic format during the next week

Tom Adam's, ZS6OMT won the CW section of the contest.

1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN - 194 points
2nd Christie Grobbelaar, ZS4CGR - 192 points
3rd Deon Fraser, ZS5DCF - 107 points

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently two faint sunspot regions visible on the solar disk with simple magnetic configurations. No significant flaring is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 15 to 30 m bands will, especially late afternoon, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the AWA SSB Valve QSO Party

08 May – Remembrance Day for WWII
09 and 10 May – the SARL VHF/UHF digital contest
10 May – Mother's Day
13 May the POP Sprint
17 May – the ZS3 Sprint
20 May – the SARL 95th Birthday and the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint
30 and 31 May – the CQ WPX CW contest

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our main news item:

The electronic voting for the four Financial motions opened at 00:01 CAT on Monday 27 April 2020 and there was an initial rush to cast votes, but this has decreased during the week. The four motions deal with the approval of the un-audited interim accounts of income and expenditure and balance sheet as at 31st December; the approval of the proposed budget for the 2020/21; the approval of the proposed subscriptions for 2020/21 so that the invoices can be sent out and the approval of the proposed auditor for 2020/21.

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This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson, ZS1S and read by .....

From the news team, stay healthy, adhere to the regulations and the best wishes for the week ahead.